

SIMILE ZOLA., NOVELIST AND REFORMER
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however, was long unwilling to accept it, for victory was not yet won. At last, some time after Dreyfus was pardoned, lie consented to do so; and the presentation took place at the offices of "Le Sikcle," whose editor, M. Yves Guyot, was president of the subscription committee. Besides the Dreyfus family, Colonel Picquart, and the Laboris, many others who had fought the good fight were present; and in response to M. Guyot's address, Zola pronounced a short and feeling speech, towards the close of which he said: " Undoubtedly, if the question had only been one of saving an innocent man from his torturers, of restoring Dreyfus to his wife and children, our victory would be complete. The whole world holds him to be a martyr, his legal rehabilitation will soon follow — all that frightful story is surely ended! But there was another dear to us, one who was poisoned, in peril of death, and that dear and great and noble one was France. . . . We dreamt of seeing her freed from ancient servitude, rising, with her artisans, her savants, her thinkers, to a new ideal, reconquering old Europe, not indeed by arms but by the ideas that liberate. Never had there occurred such an opportunity to give her a sound practical lesson, for we had set our hands upon the very rottenness that was eating into the cracking, decaying edifice; and we thought if we pointed it out that would be

sufficient, that the house would be cleansed,
rebuilt, properly and substantially. But in that respect we
have been beaten. They have decided merely to pass a
sponge over the rottenness, so that the timbers will
continue to crack and decay till the house at last comes down.
For that rea-

"bronze were distributed among the subscribers, others
being sold to the public.